

April 1, 2020

Dear Friends, Neighbors and RESIDENTS!

The good news is this is not a letter about coronavirus. But, it is a letter about another critical set of numbers in our communal life - **CENSUS 2020**.

As I write this, less than 1/3rd of us in the village have responded to the census. **LESS THAN 1/3!**

By now, you should have received not one but TWO notices with your personal ID to access the census. If you do not respond to the census on-line or by phone (see below) you will have an official census taker knocking on your door. Who wants that? I know we are desperate for some social interaction with the outside world, but with the census taker? Seriously? (And if you can't find your personal ID, don't worry, you can still out the census. See below.)

So, in the time you have after the home schooling, the Zoom meetings, grocery store runs, the walkabouts in the neighborhood to "blow the stink off" as my father-in-law would say, after all that, please — please — take the five minutes to answer the census.

Why is CENSUS 2020 so important, you ask, that it warrants yet another letter from Ken Wray?

When the coronavirus takes its leave, CENSUS 2020 will be a critical tool to gather the resources necessary to rebuild our local economy. Trust me, the Village will access State and Federal assistance in every way possible. But if you and your family are not counted, the Village will be disadvantaged. We will leave critical support on the table. Even in the best of times, the school district and Village forfeit thousands of dollars each year for every person who is uncounted. Answering the census is an act of civic responsibility. Frankly, I can't do my job as mayor and get Sleepy Hollow the funding it needs if you don't fill out the census.

Some notes that might help you with any anxiety of completing CENSUS 2020:

- Don't worry that the form says Tarrytown; the Feds sort the tracking out later. (I agree, it is confusing and annoying.)
- If you can't find your census ID, no problem. Go to <http://www.my2020census.gov> and click "Start Questionnaire." You will be able to complete your census without the census ID.

- If you want to respond to the census **by phone**, you can and you don't need to have your census ID.

844-330-2020 for English

844-468-2020 for Spanish

844-474-2020 for Portuguese

844-467-2020 TTD for hard of hearing

Know someone who needs support in another language?

Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html>

or email sleepytarrycensus2020@gmail.com for help.

- What about your college student who is now at home due to coronavirus? Students who lived in campus-based housing (e.g., dorm, campus apartment, sanctioned fraternity or sorority) do not need to do anything. Do not include them in your census. They will be counted by their college or university. Students who lived in off-campus (non-college-sponsored) housing need to reply directly. They should go to www.my2020census.gov and click "Start Questionnaire." They will be able to complete their census without their census ID. The census is advising these students to include each of their roommates in the appropriate questions as well (the census will sort out any duplication on the back-end).

Need help or have more questions? Email sleepytarrycensus2020@gmail.com.

After you're done filling out the census, remind your neighbors to fill theirs out, too. Remind them nicely, keeping six feet apart. We are all in this together.

—Ken